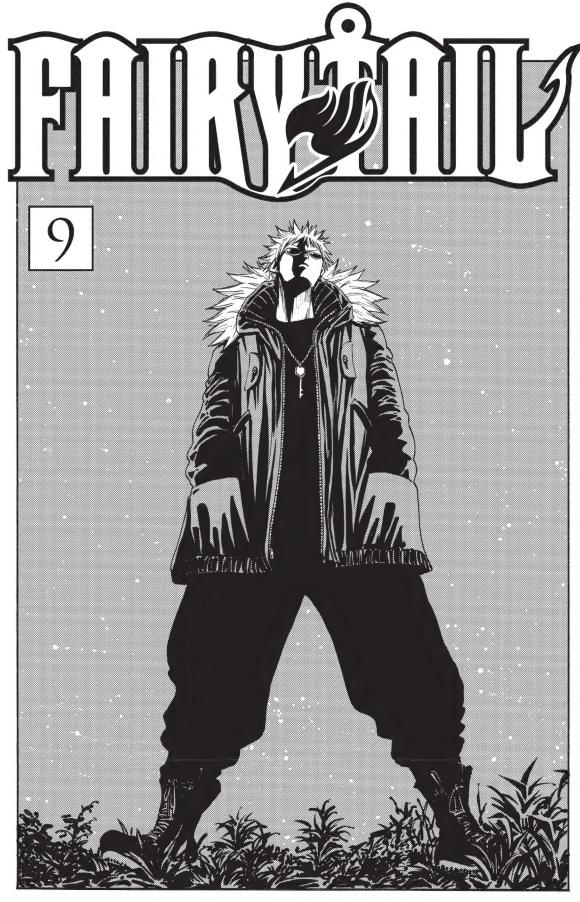


Creator of Rave Master



HIRD MASHIMA



Chapter 66: Like-Minded & 3

Chapter 67: My Decision 3-3-3-23

Chapter 68: Goodbye 3-3-43

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Chapter 70: Frederick & Yanderica - - - 83

Chapter 71: A Night in Impatiens 5-5-103

Chapter 72: The Star That Will Never Return to the Sky 🖦 🖦 🛶 123

Chapter 73: Year 781 • Blue Pegasus 🗝 🖦 🖦 147

Chapter 74: Celestial Spirit King 🗝 🖦 🗠 167

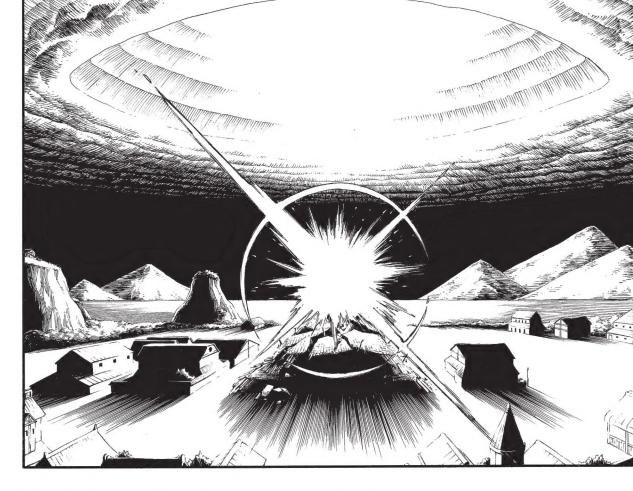
Translation Notes → → → 193

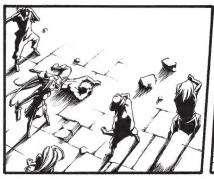
Preview of Volume 10 9-10-10-201

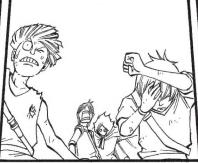




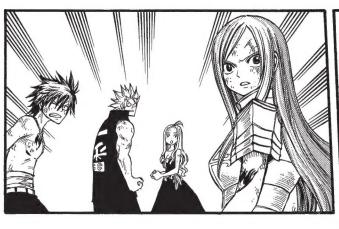
Chapter 66: Like-Minded







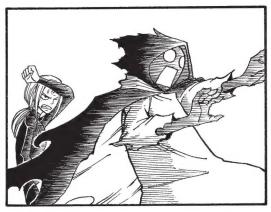


















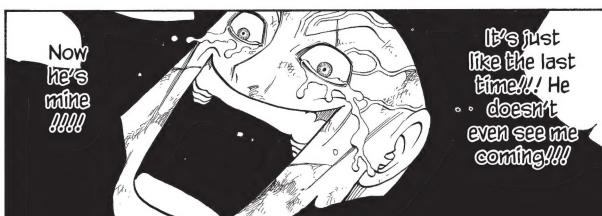












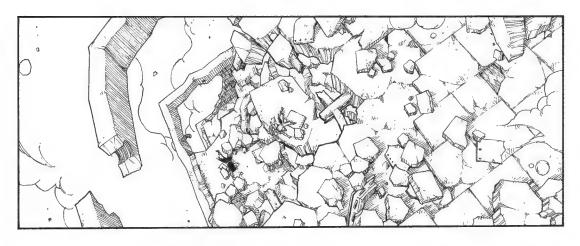




























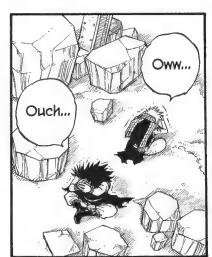






































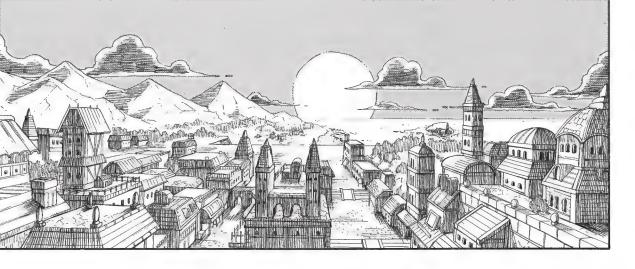


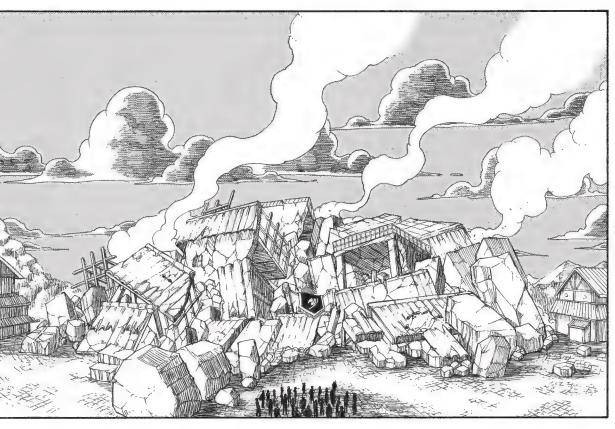




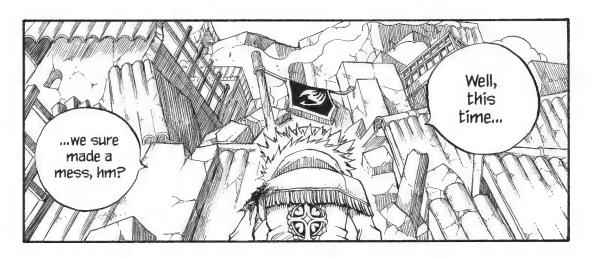








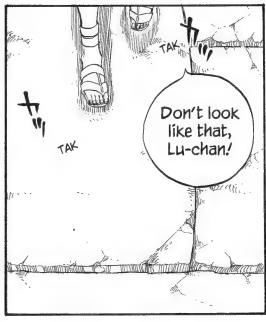










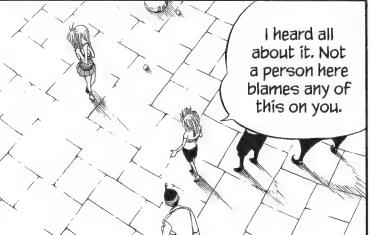






















One

person's

anger

becomes

everyone's

anger.









That's what a guild is all about!

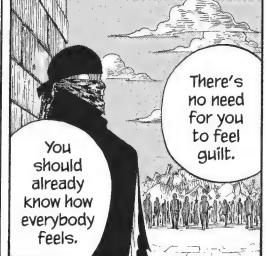
Happi-

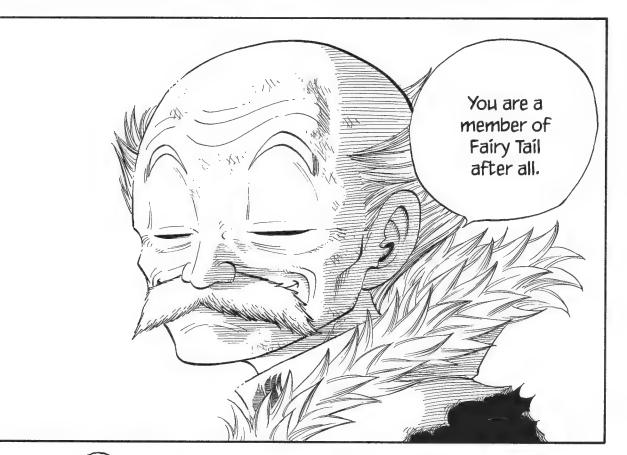
ness...





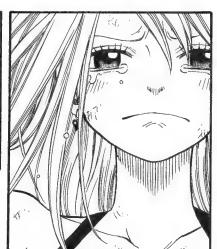


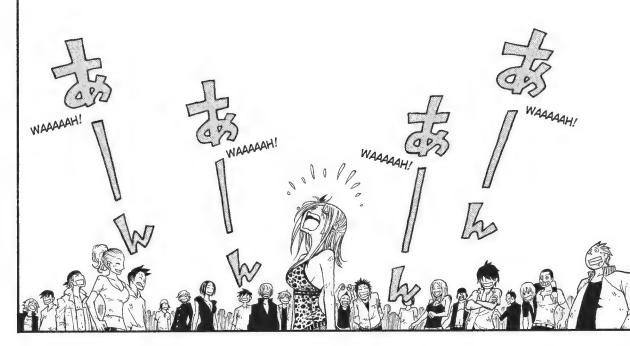


















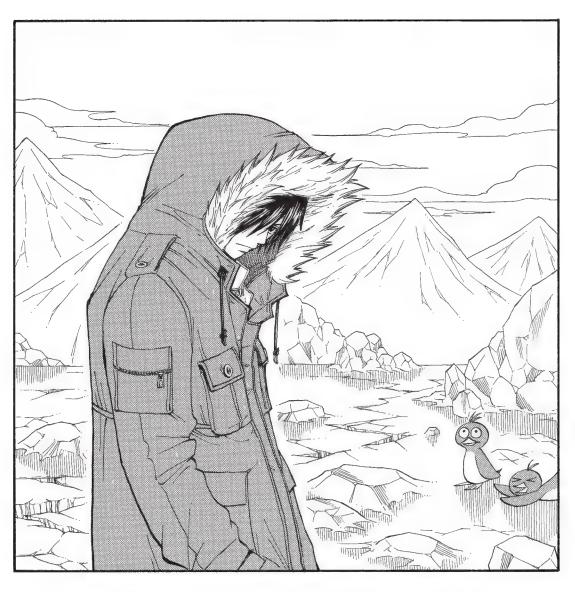




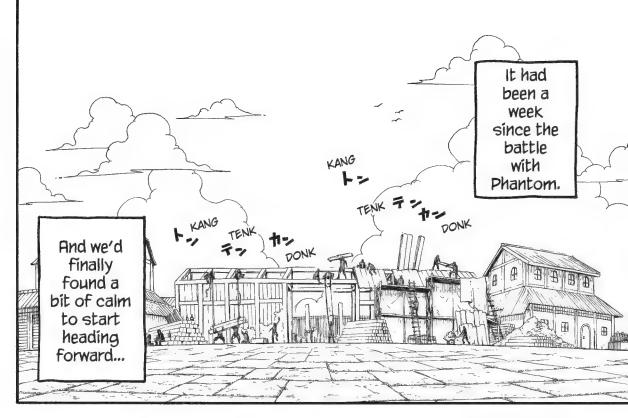


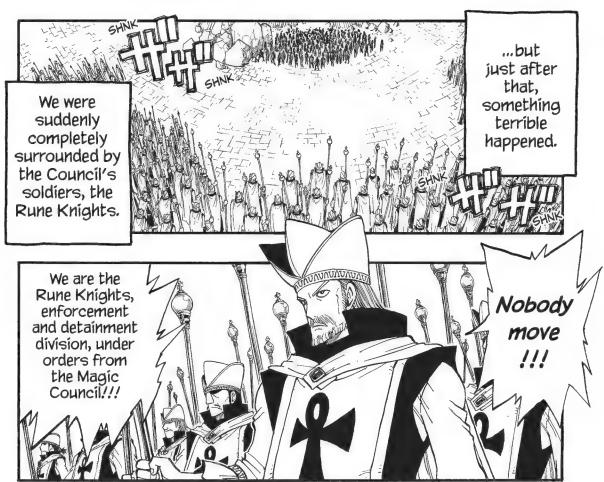






Chapter 67: My Decision

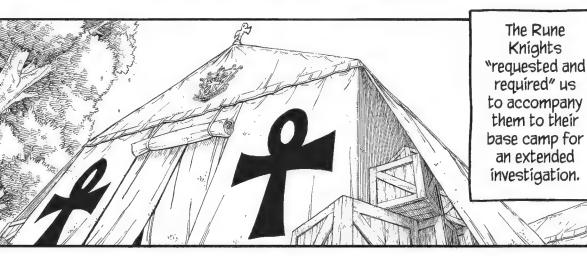








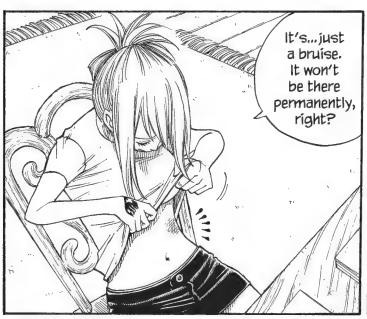


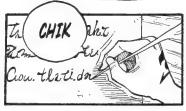




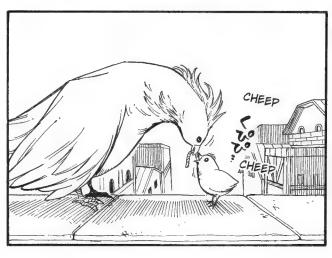








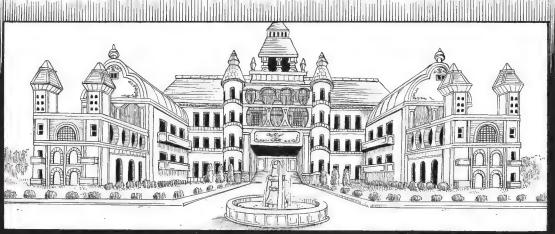












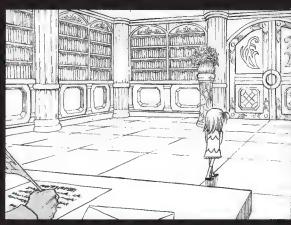










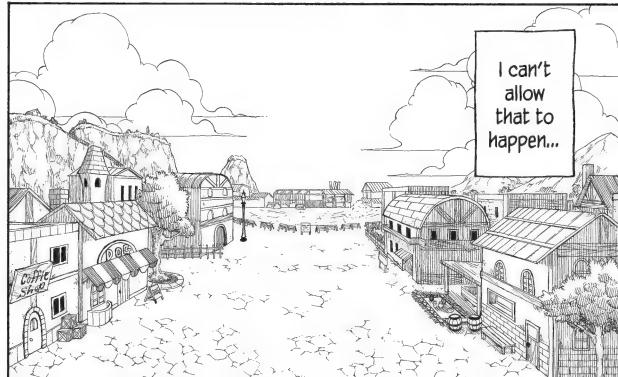




Can't you
understand
when I
tell you
you're in
the way,
Lucy?!!!

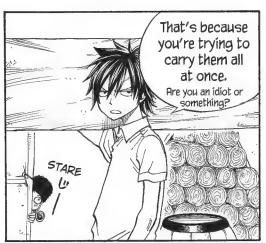
















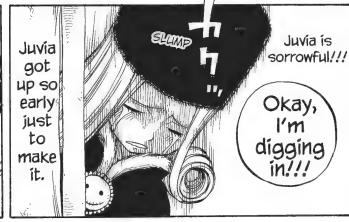




























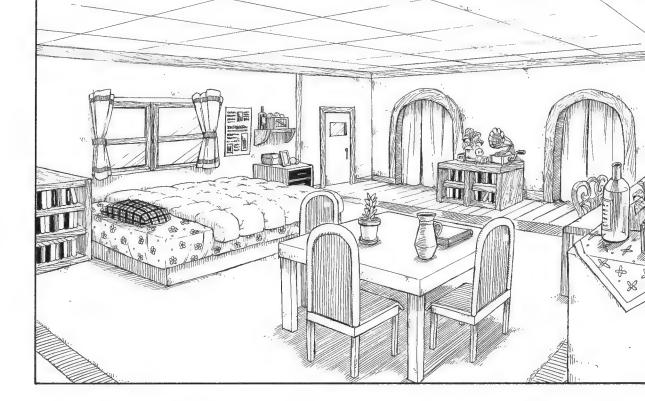


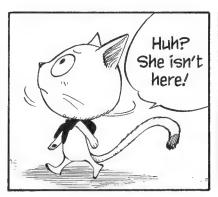








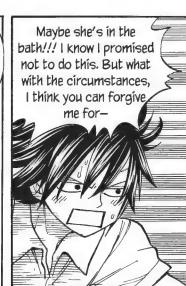












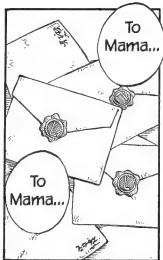


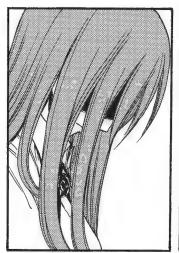




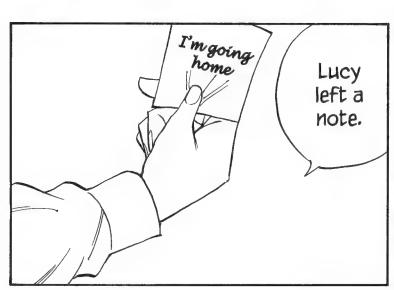










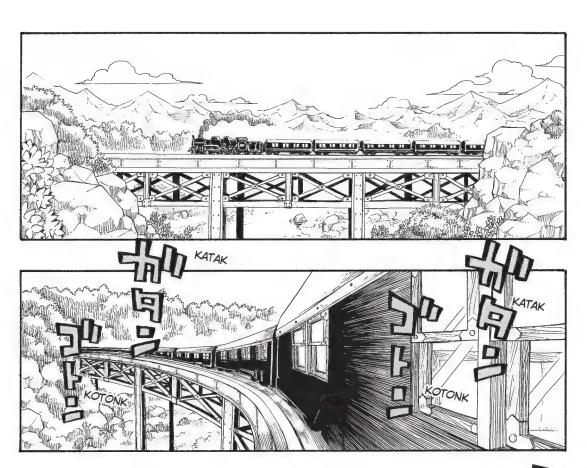


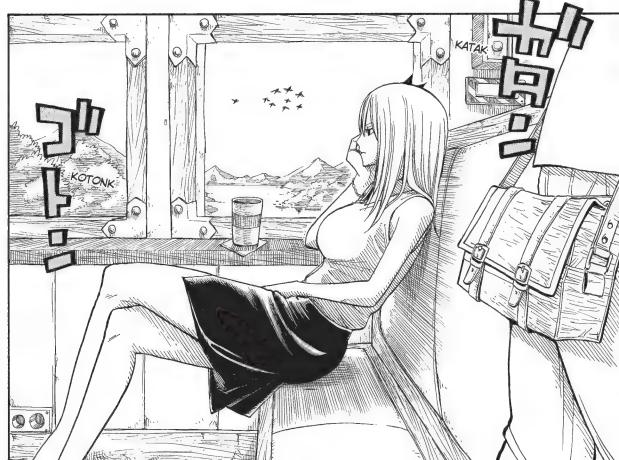
















Chapter 68: Goodbye







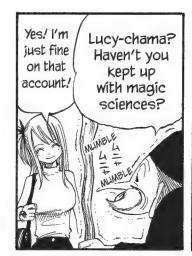


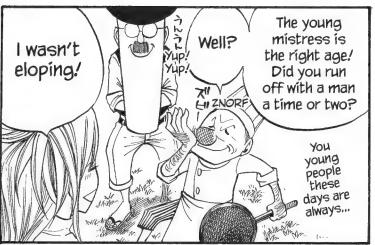




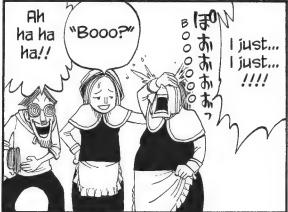
You haven't been avoiding your magical sciences lessons, have you?
Remember that celestial wizardry is dependant on trust and love...
mumble mumble...











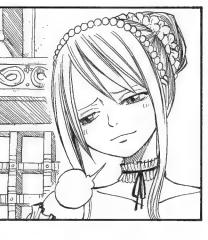


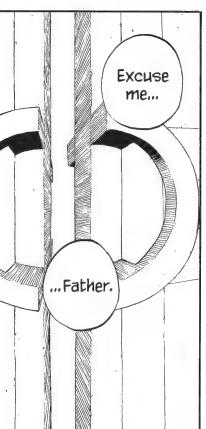


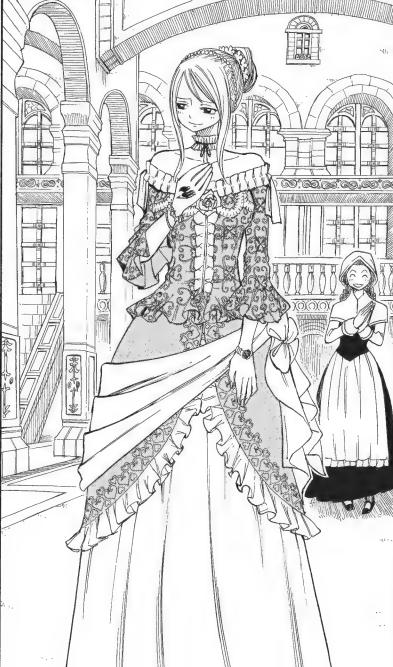






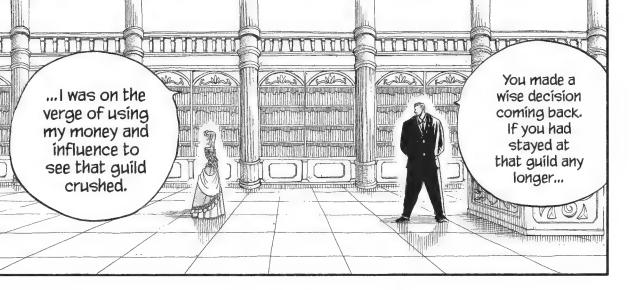










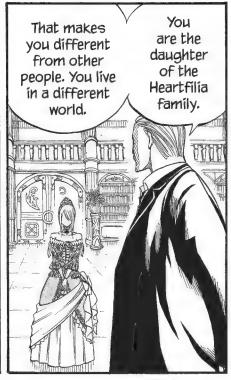






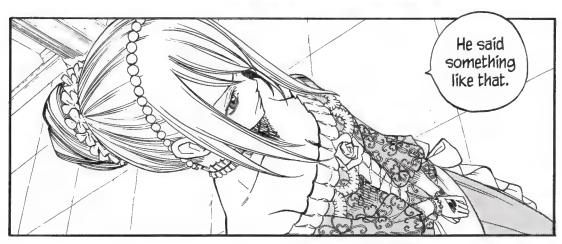




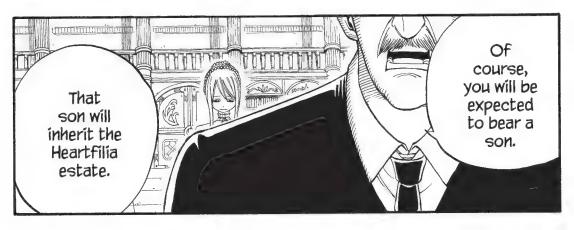


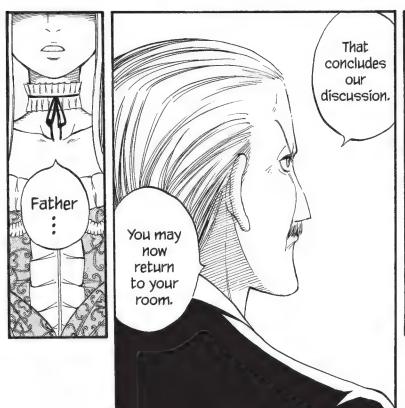




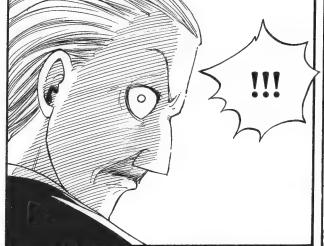






















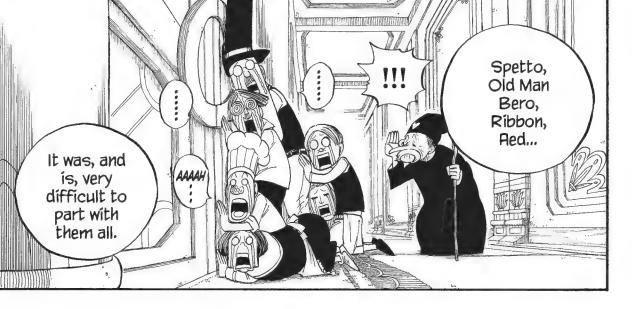


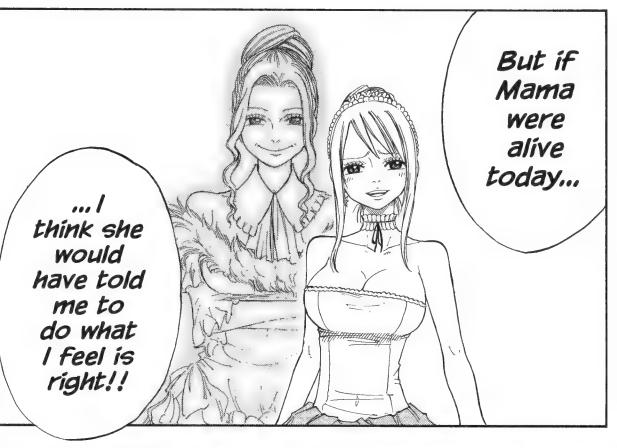


























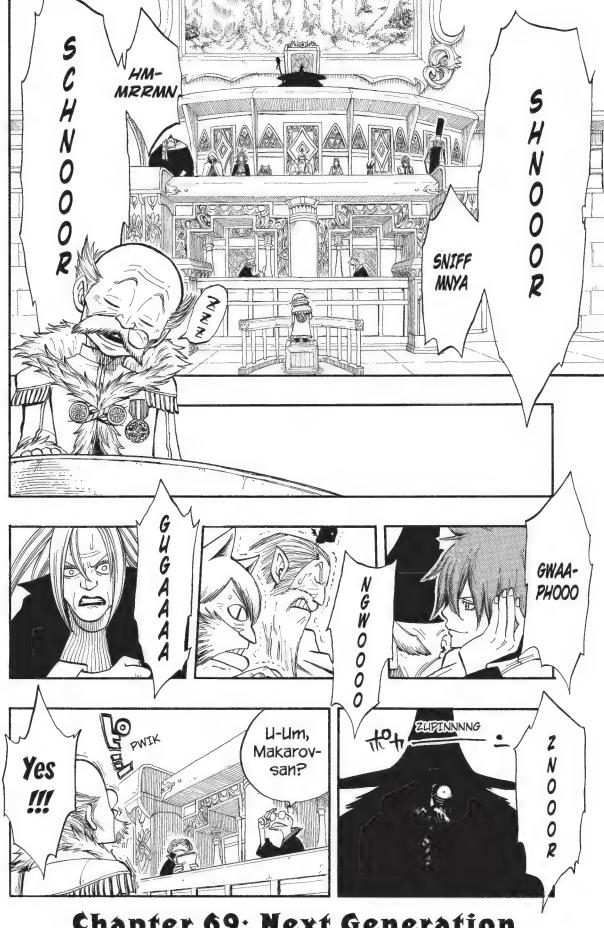




Ah...No!
This is just
the garden.
Everything from
here to beyond
that mountain
is my family's
place.



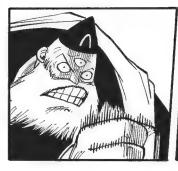




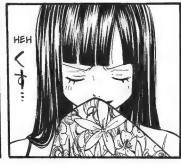
Chapter 69: Next Generation









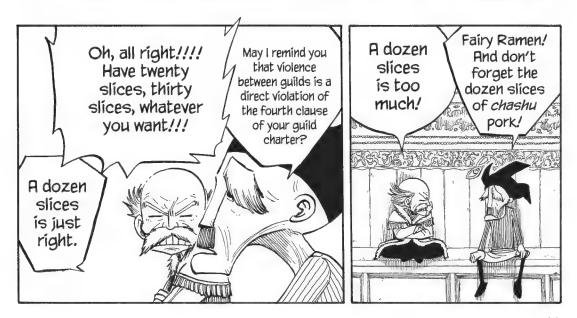


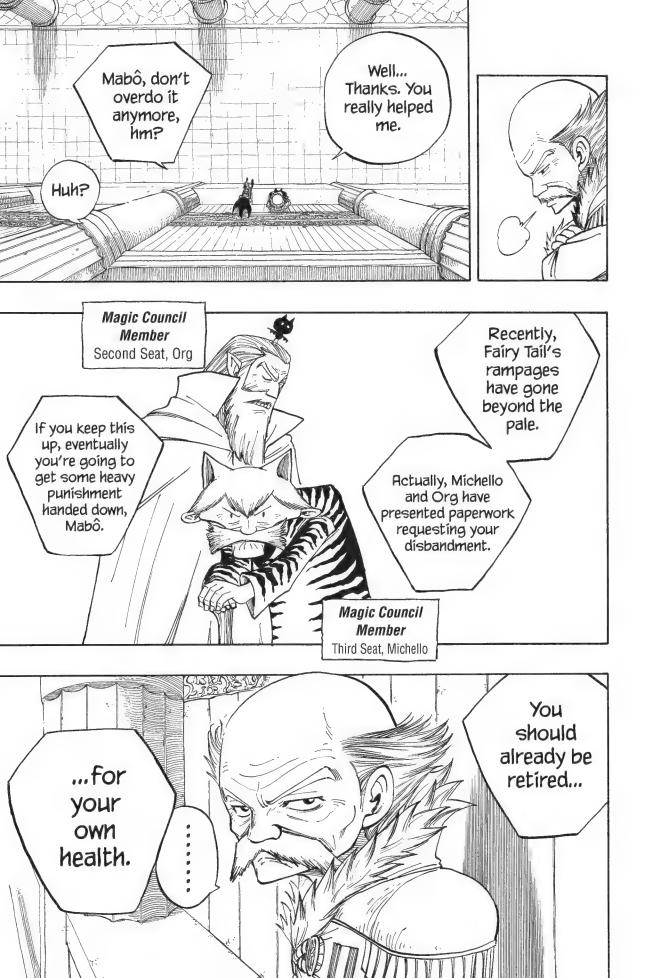
































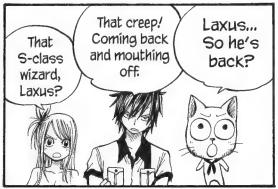
















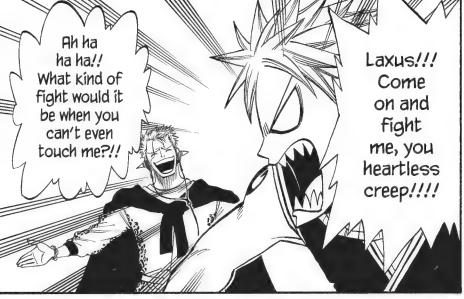














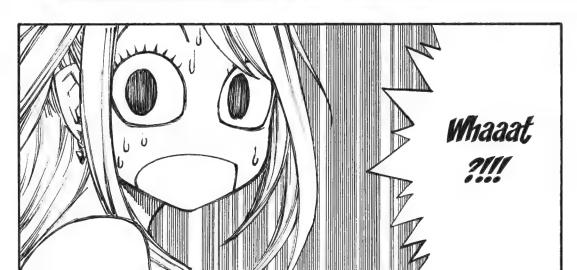


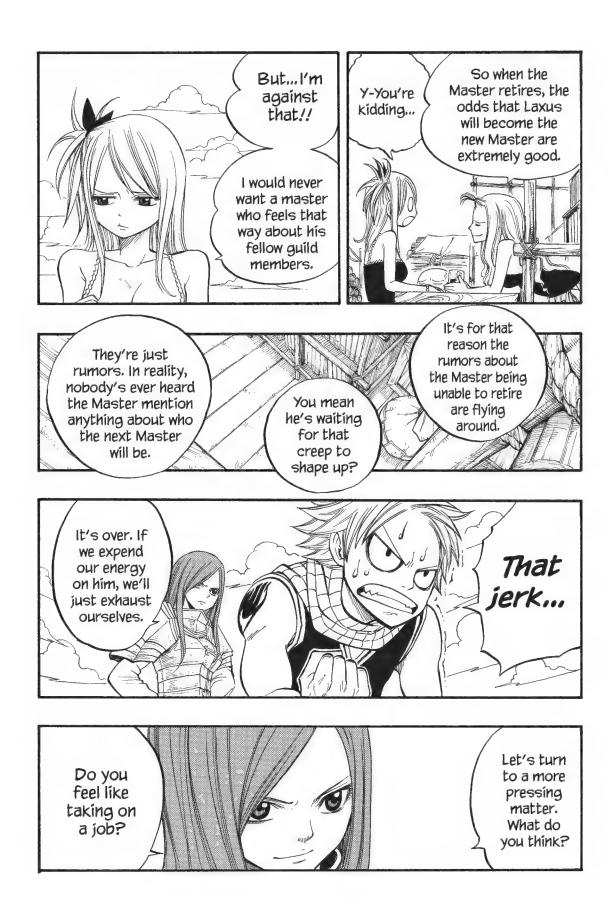














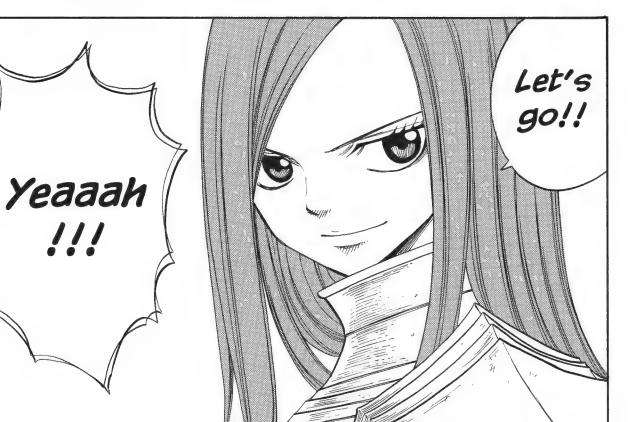


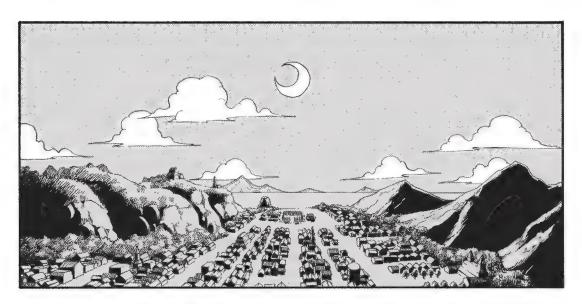
































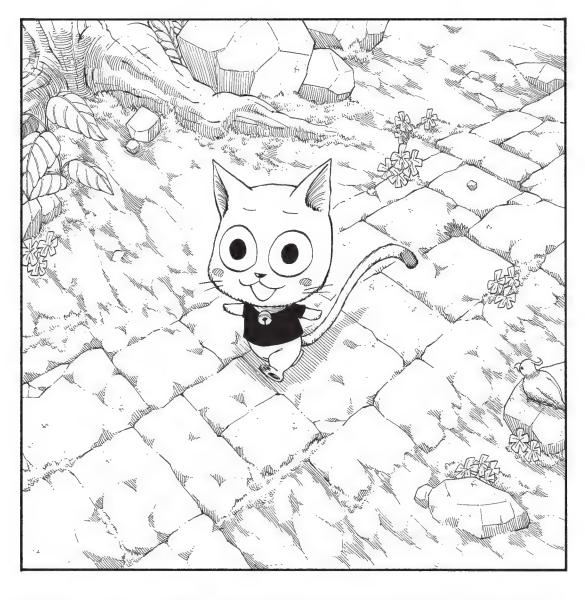








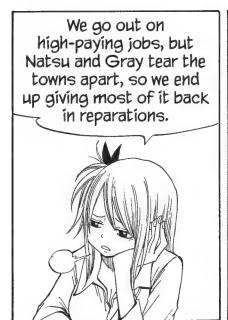


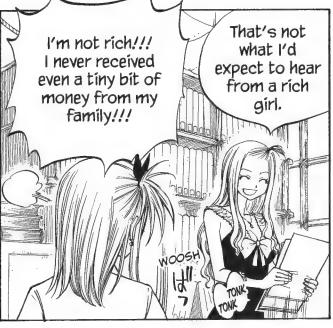


Chapter 70: Frederick & Yanderica

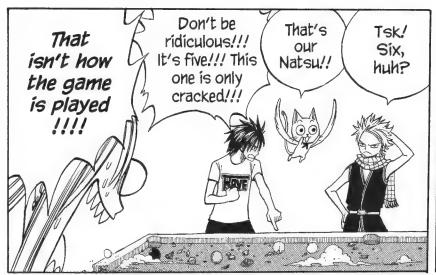


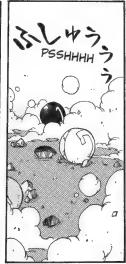




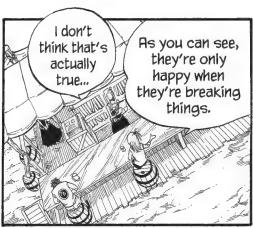


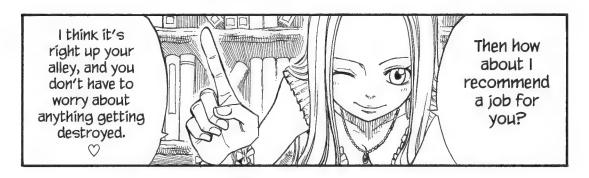


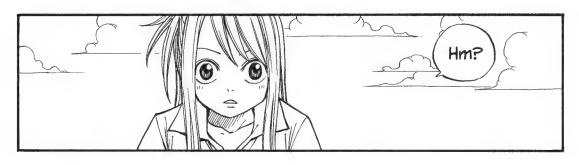


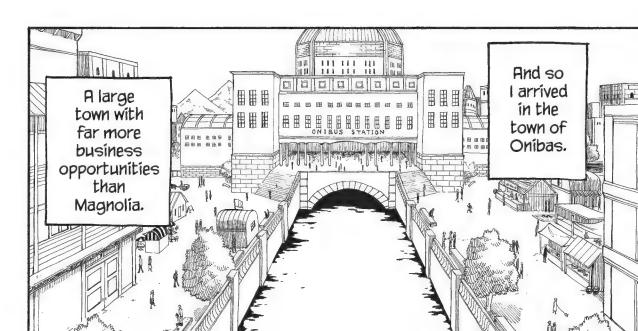












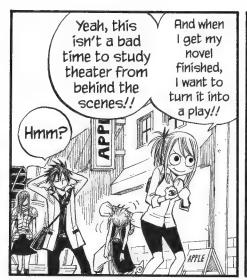




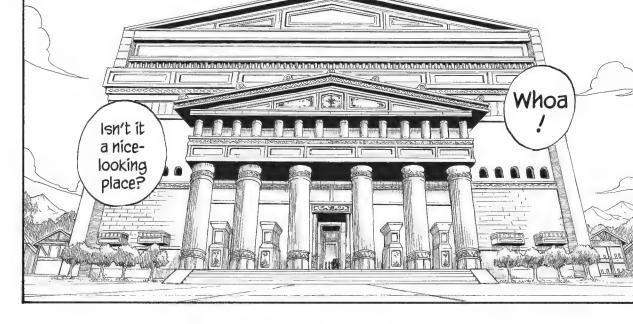


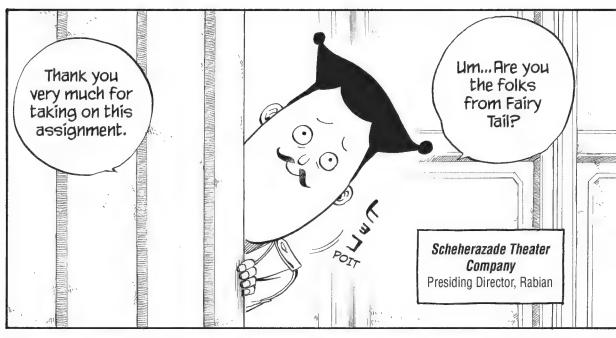


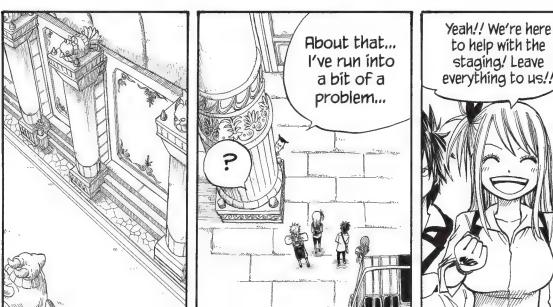








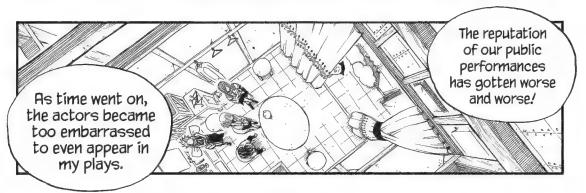






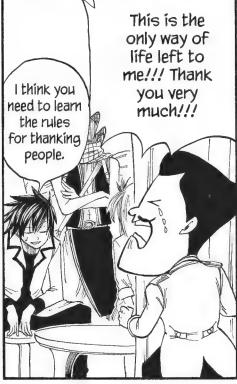


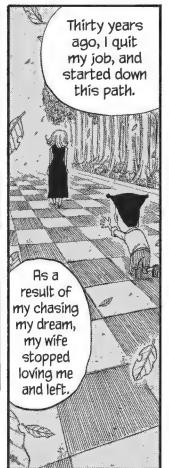






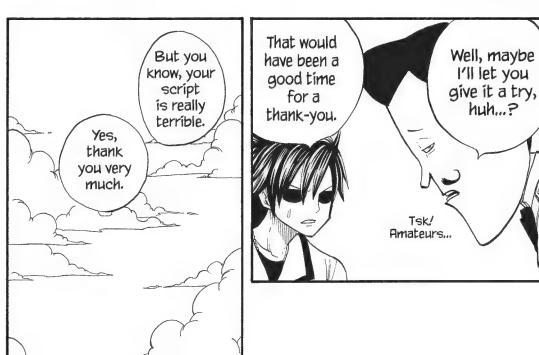


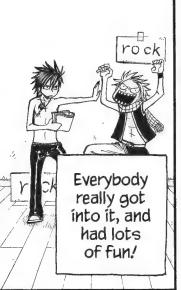








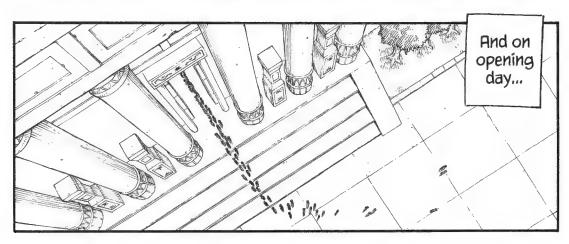




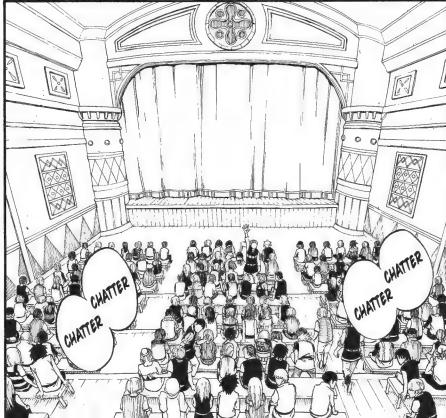




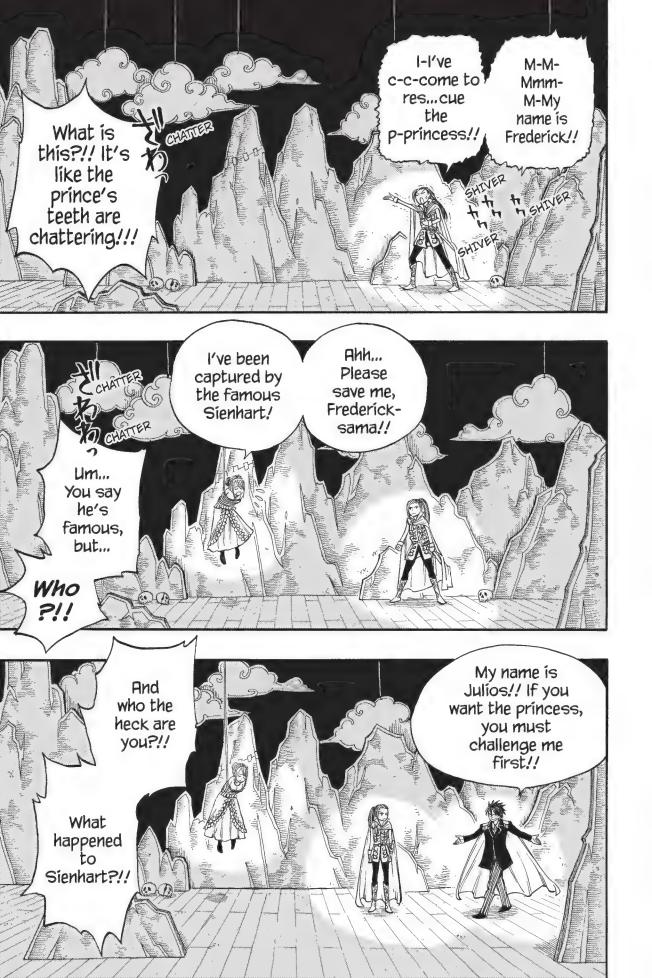








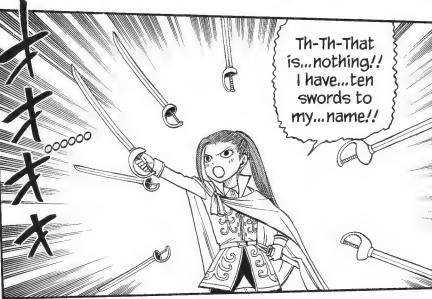




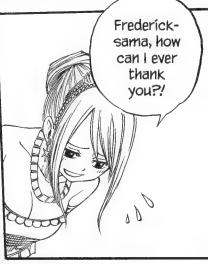












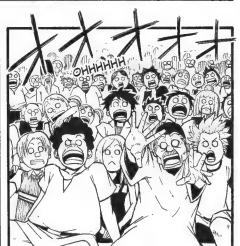




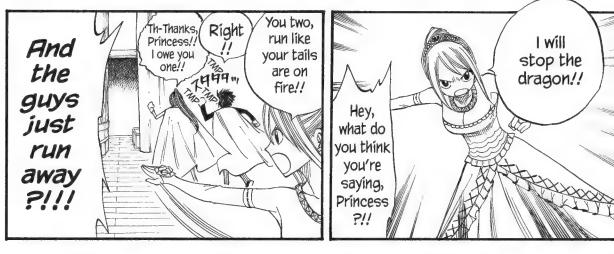


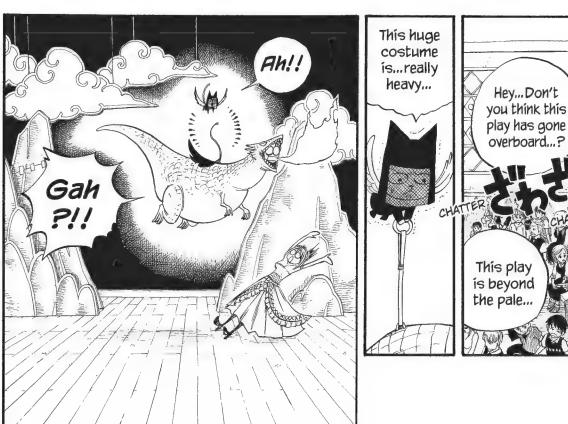




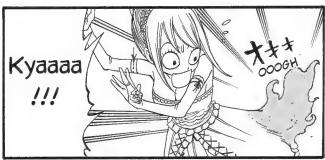


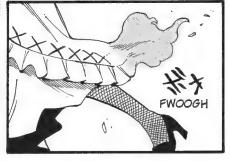








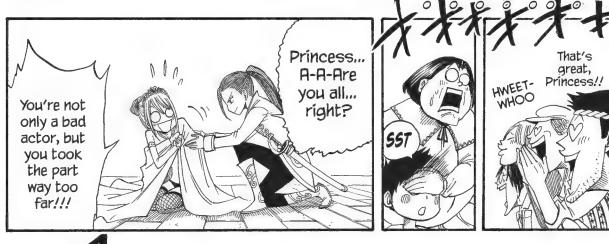








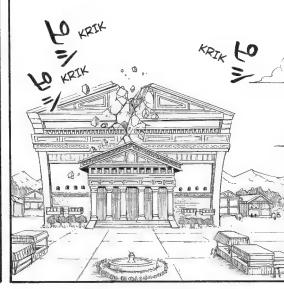










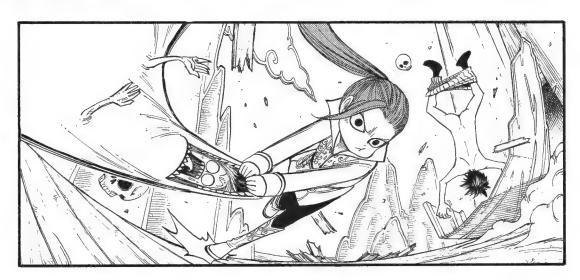






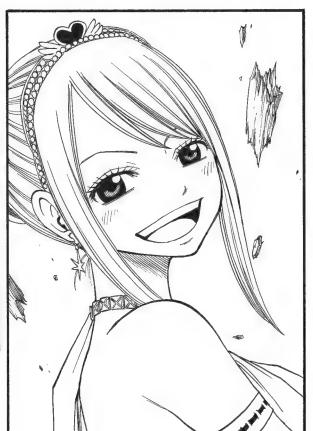






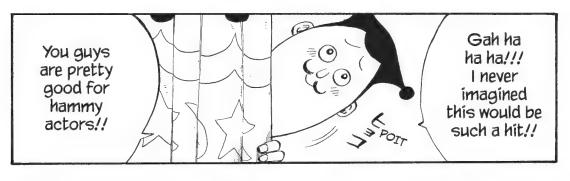


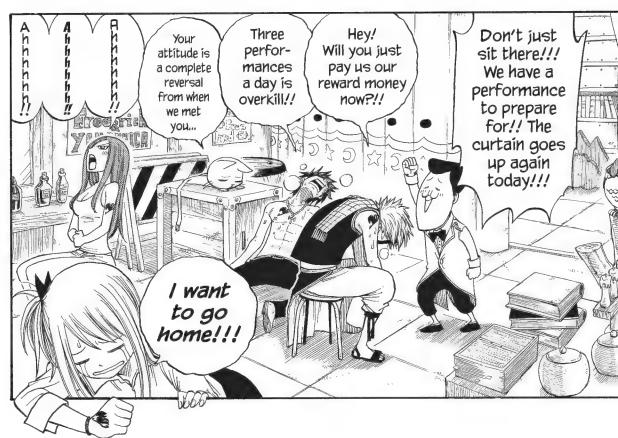






One week later...









Chapter 71: A Night in Impatiens

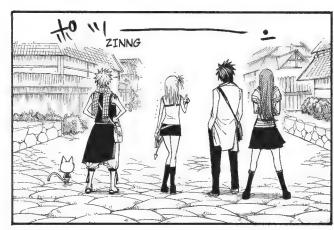




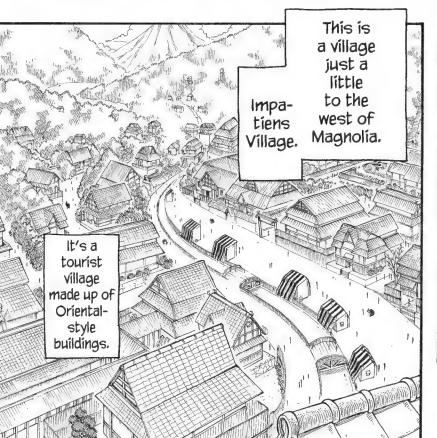






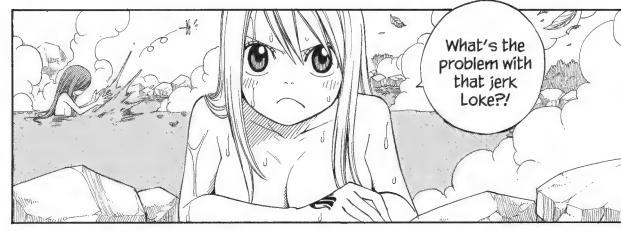


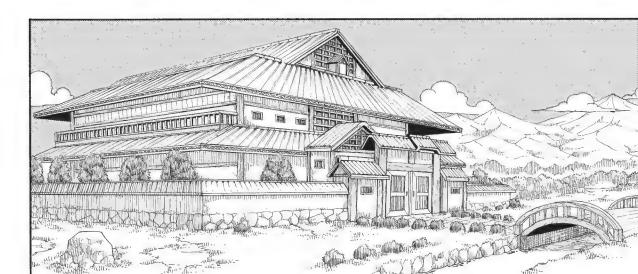


















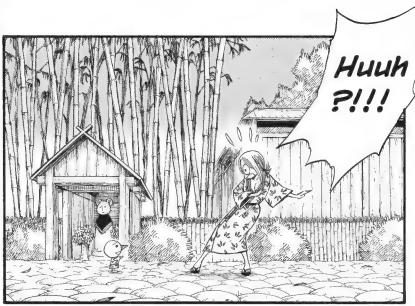














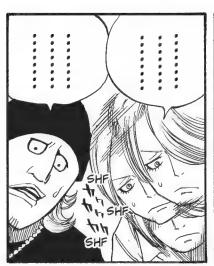


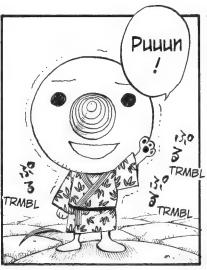




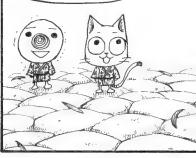


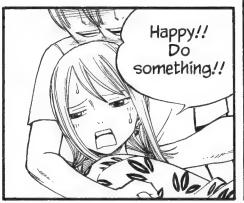




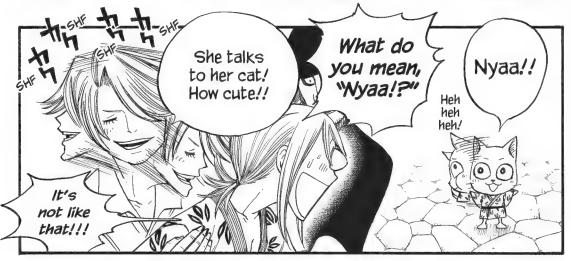


When you say you're not alone.
Do you mean you're with that cat and...













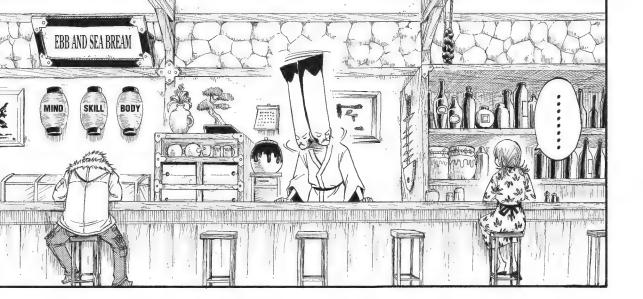


















































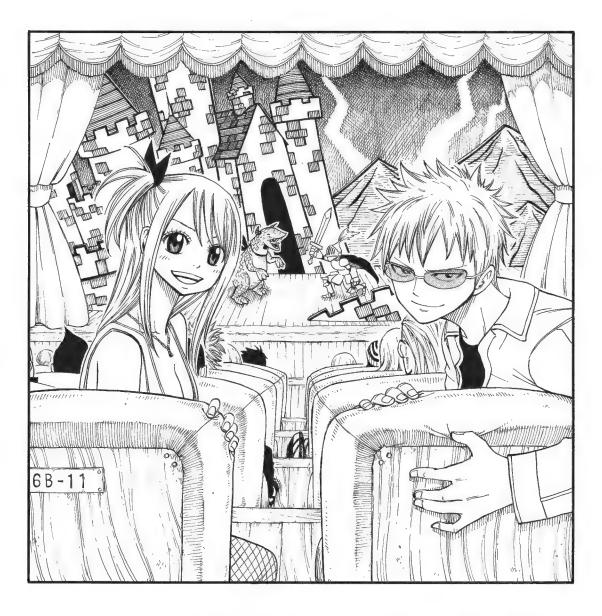










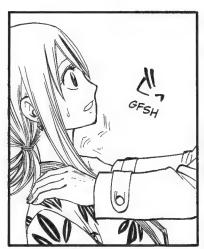


Chapter 72: The Star That Will Never Return to the Sky



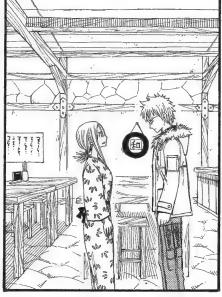
















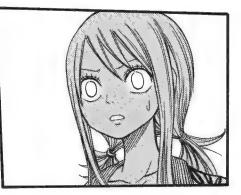










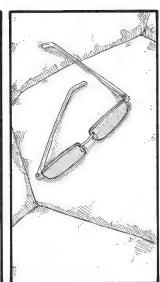










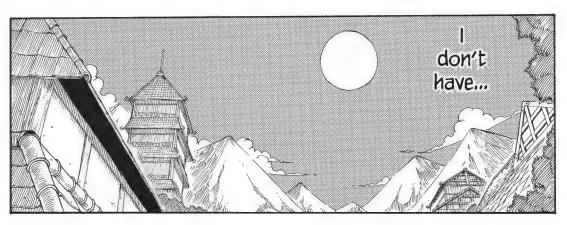








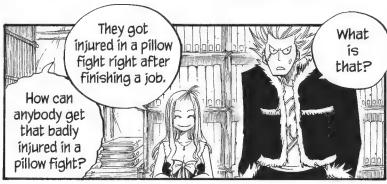




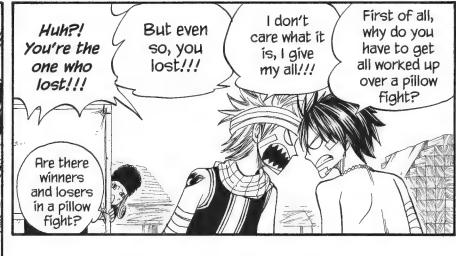


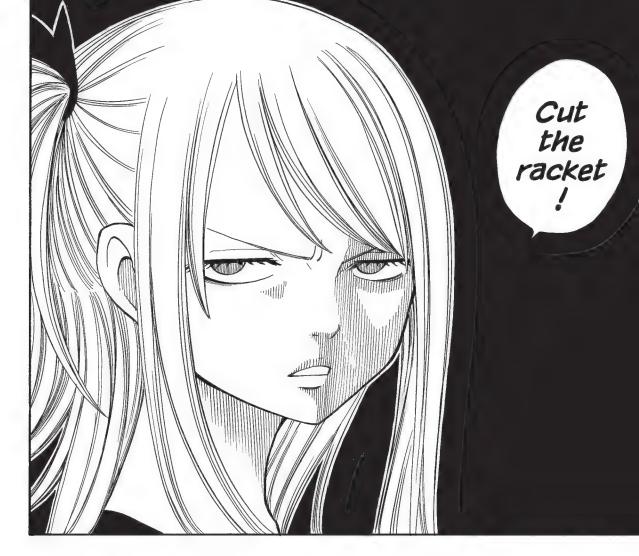
















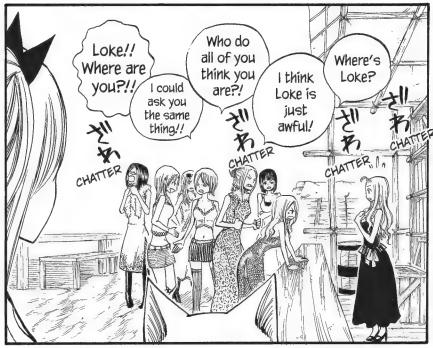






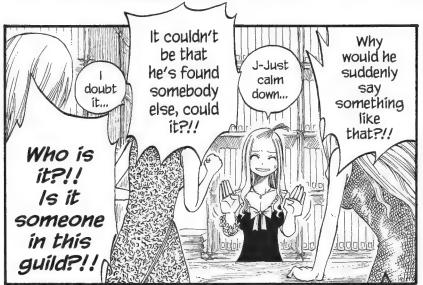














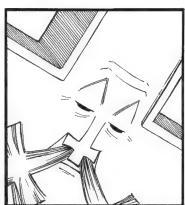




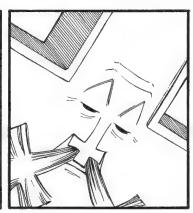






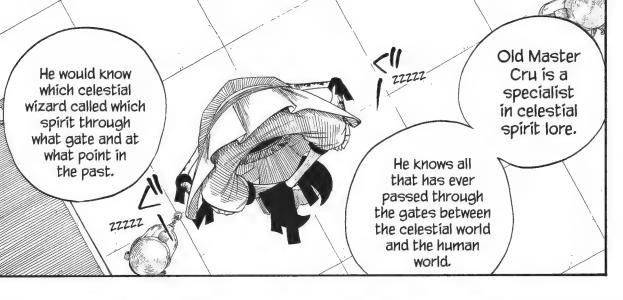










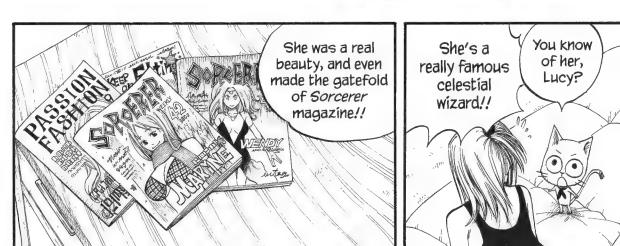


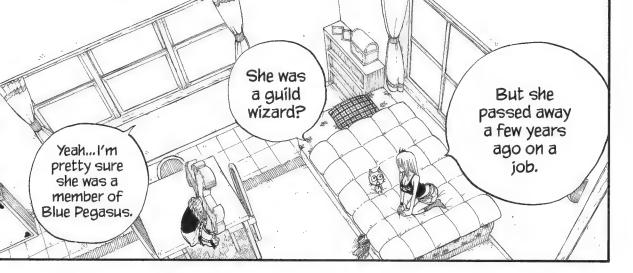


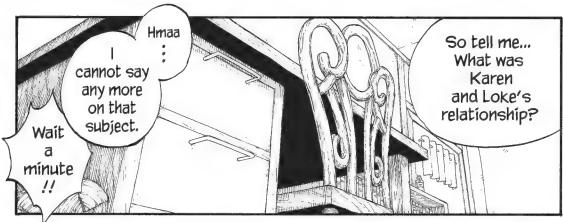






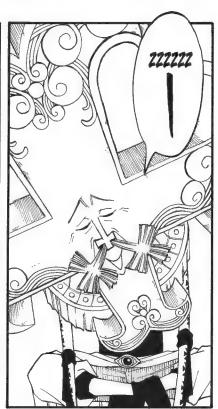


























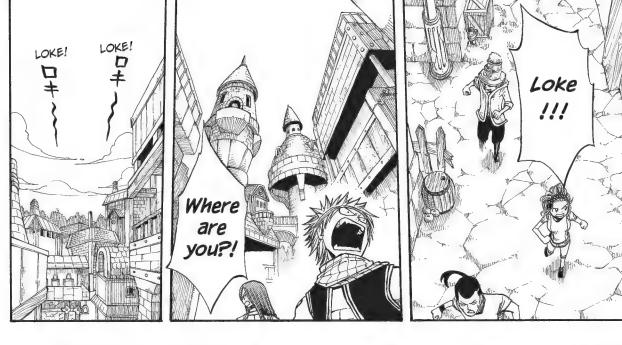


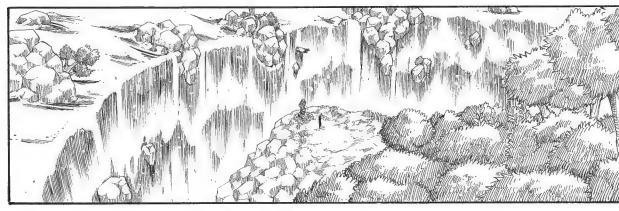




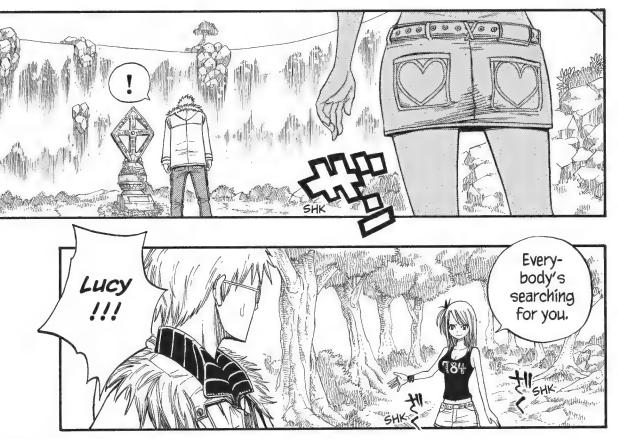










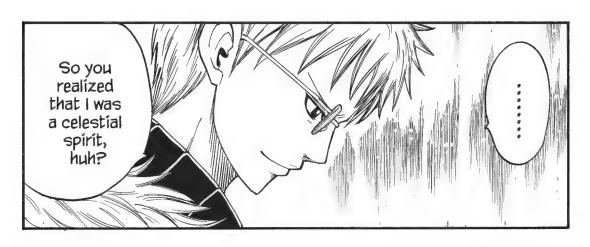


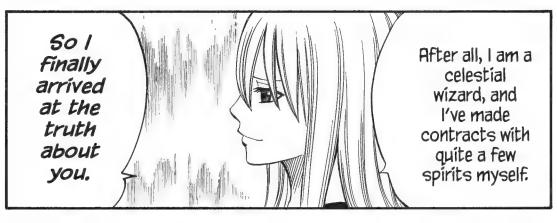


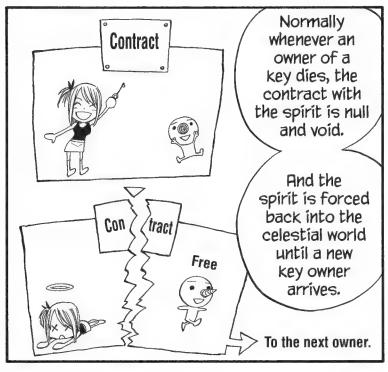




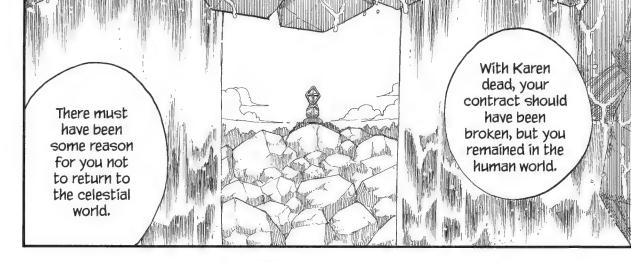


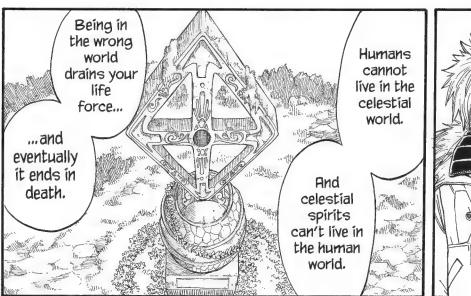














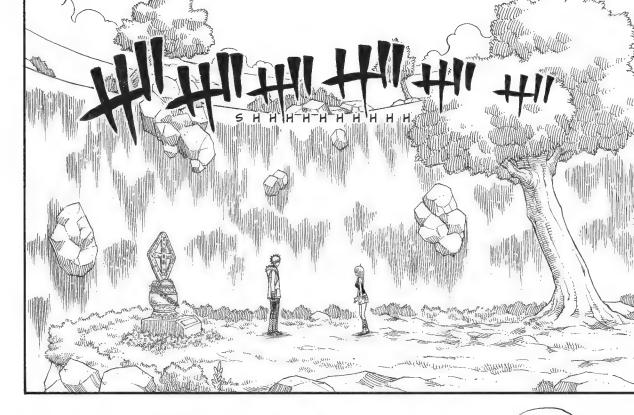










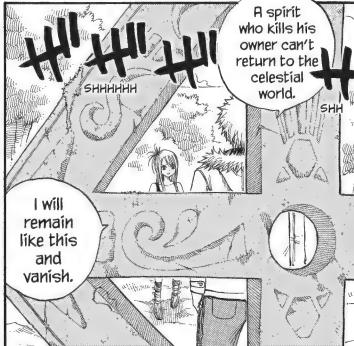
























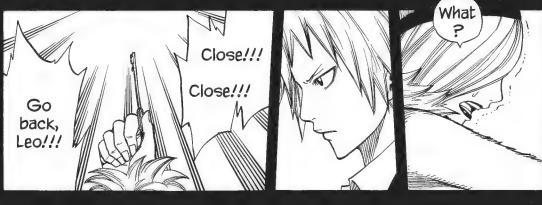


























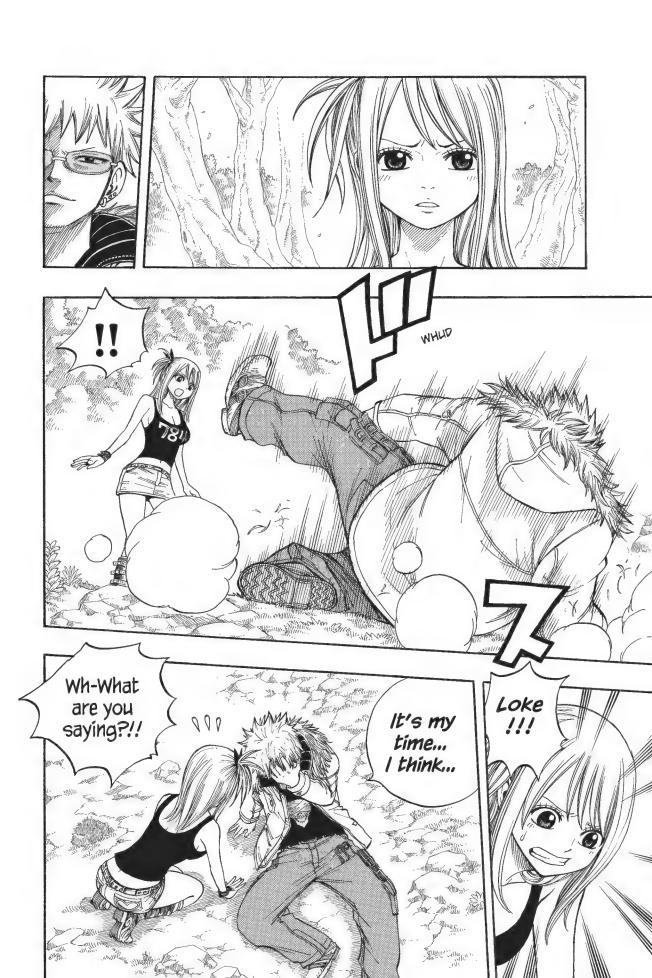


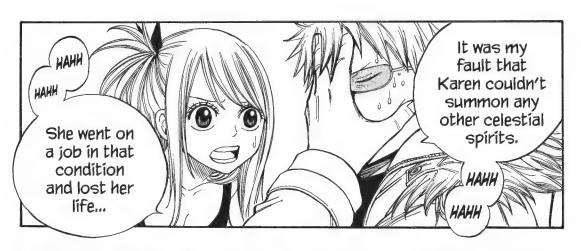


I can't seem to stop the drain on my life force, but it isn't nearly as hard on me as before...























Chapter 74: Celestial Spirit King



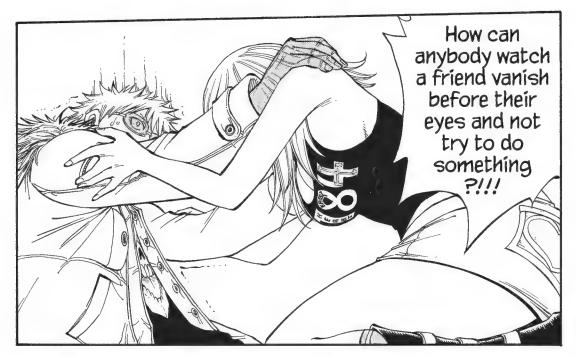






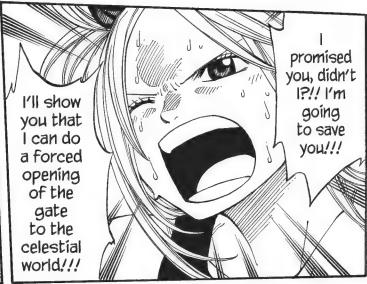


































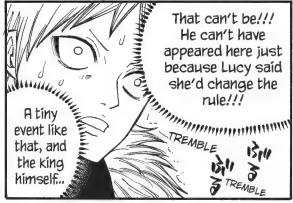














































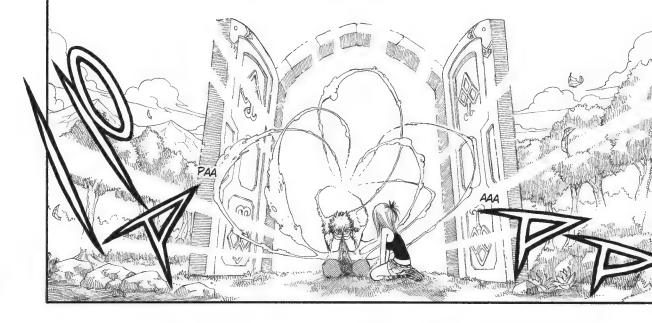




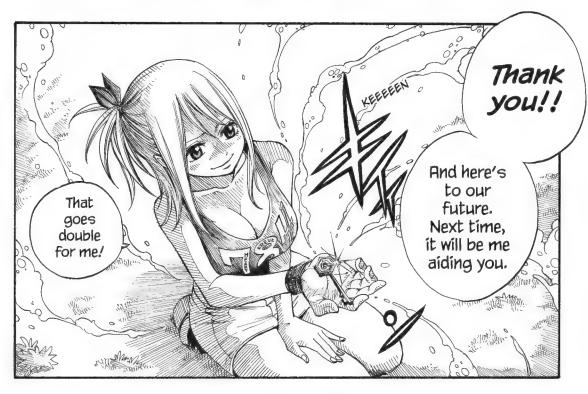












TO BE CONTINUED



Man, am I busy!! Yeah, for a manga-ka that's a great thing to be able to say, but I'm way too busy!! If you want to know why, it's because I have another manga series—this time a monthly series. I've done this in the past, doing a monthly and a weekly series at the same time, but this time there are so many more pages required than last time! So the pace is so much different than before. By the way, when I was only doing a weekly manga, the amount of work equaled twenty pages of manga, twenty pages of *name* (the Japanese term for a rough-sketched story and dialogue), plus a couple of color pieces and small odd jobs. But the quantity of work I had last week was forty-three manga pages, sixty-nine pages of *name*, four color pages, and tons of those small, odd jobs. What the heck was that week all about?!! The only thing I can do is laugh about it!! Yeah, it was an unusually heavy week that included a short story, so the page numbers were artificially high, but even so, my regular work week is about twice as busy as before. Man! It's unbelievable!!

Recently I met another creator, and was asked what my motivation is for doing all of that work. I don't know how to answer that question. I never even considered the concept of motivation. Of course, I love manga, and that's why I draw it. But that's the basic assumption for any manga-ka. In my case, maybe it includes journeyman-style training. That probably sums it up. I've been doing this work for over ten years, but I can't seem to get good at drawing. (Ha ha!) Is it true that if I draw a lot, I'll become better? Normally, you'd think so...Anyway, I'm busy! Really busy! And that's what comes out of my mouth when I'm talking to the people around me, but inside I'm having so much fun, I can hardly contain it! I can draw a whole lot of manga! My manga will be read by a whole lot of people! That's probably my motivation, huh?



#### From the Counter at Fairy Tail...



: All you readers out there, hello! ♥



: Hello! You're in a good mood today, Lucy!

Lucy: Sure! It's the ninth volume, and the stories were all about me!! It's like Volume 9 was drawn especially for me!

Mira: That's what it means to be a heroine, I guess, huh? Well, while you're in such a good mood, let's get started on the questions.

## How many sets of armor total can Erza requip into?

Lucy: That question is pretty painful...er...! mean sharp!

Mira: The two of us can't answer it, so let's call in the woman herself. Introducing our special guest, Erza!



: Mm.

Lucy: Don't just say, "Mm"! If you don't come up with some greeting, you'll lose popularity points!

Erza: No...Well...I suppose I am not used to this...Uh...Hello.

Mira: So about the question we just heard. Erza, how many suits of armor do you have?

Erza: Many.



: Wait a second! None of the readers will really count that as an answer! You're going to have to do better than that to increase your point score!

Mira: What are popularity points exactly?

Erza: I have more than a hundred different types. I haven't counted them all myself, but I also count within their ranks dresses and kimono.

Lucy: Requipping is such a great concept! Dressing must be a breeze!

Mira: On to the next question.



How long has Erza been in the Fairy Tail guild?



: Eight years. That brings back memories.



: By the way, I entered six years ago, bringing Elfman and Lisanna with me.

Erza: Natsu entered seven years ago, and Gray had entered even before I did.

Lucy: Huh? You guys have been in the guild a long time! It hasn't even been a year for me!

*Erza*: The story of my life before Fairy Tail is touched on in Volume 10.

Mira: I'm interested in learning about that!



: What was that? You just casually throw a preview of the next volume into the conversation?

Mira: Okay, the final question.

Who is the heroine of Fairy Tail? Lucy or Erza?



: !!!

Mira: Nobody cares who the "heroine" is, right?

Lucy: What do you mean "nobody?!" I mean, people would automatically assume it's me, right?



: Well...I feel a little embarrassed being addressed as the heroine, but...Am I truly being looked upon in that fashion?

Lucy: Wait a minute!! What are you blushing for?!!

Mira: Certainly at first glance, one would think it's Lucy, but I hear that Erza has more fans.



## : You're kidding!!!

Erza: Is that so?

Lucy: Wait!! Just look at the cover of Volume 9! It's me!! All me!! I carry the entire cover all by myself!!

Mira: If you look closely, you see an awful lot of celestial spirits there too.

Erza: Lucy, did you know? They included a poster of me in Weekly Magazine.

Lucy: Waaaaaah!!

Erza: And that was only me. Heh heh...

Lucy: Waaaaaaaaaahh!

Mira: Well, none of this bickering will settle the matter. So why don't we ask the author directly?

----- And so... -----

Mashima: You're asking who the heroine is?

Lucy: It's me, right?! You love drawing pictures of me, don't you?!!

Erza: Do not forget that you drew a poster that was me and me alone.

Mashima: I give up. I think it's okay for the readers to decide who they think the heroine is for themselves.

Mira: Exactly! Nobody cares who it is! ♥

Mashima: Frankly, I think it's okay for the heroine to be Tomeko from Tokekko Restaurant.



Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics

451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10016

The Fairy Tail Guild d'Art is an explosion of fan art! Please send in your black-and-white art on large postcard stock!! Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your postcard!

very cute!! And

from my previous work happy I could cry!

By sending in letters or postcards you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code and any other information you include to the author as is. Please keep that in mind.





Saitama Prefecture, Keisuke Gôtô

You CENTE CIES everything



Shizuoka Prefecture, Junichi Iwahori







Ehh? By the way, Although Balko ma

ay, it's Balgo. makes a nice

Miyaqi Prefecture, Shion





they're



Gunma Prefecture, Kayo







ist a little while a



Hokkaido, Seirvu Tanaka





lwate Prefecture, Sena Minazuki





Ishikawa Prefecture, Natsu vs. Haru

america. Fairy Tail, currently being serialize
Shônen Magazine, is his latest creation.

## **Translation Notes**

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

#### General Notes: Wizard

In the original Japanese version of *Fairy Tail*, you'll find panels in which the English word "wizard" is part of the original illustration. So this translation has taken that as its inspiration and translated the word *madôshi* as "wizard." But *madôshi*'s meaning is similar to certain Japanese words that have been borrowed by the English language, such as judo (the soft way) and kendo (the way of the sword). *Madô* is the way of magic, and *madôshi* are those who follow the way of magic. So although the word "wizard" is used in the original dialogue, a Japanese reader would be likely to think not of traditional Western wizards such as Merlin or Gandalf, but of martial artists.

#### Names

Hiro Mashima has graciously agreed to provide official English spellings for just about all of the characters in *Fairy Tail*. Because this version of *Fairy Tail* is the first publication of most of these spellings, there will inevitably be differences between these spellings and some of the fan interpretations that may have spread throughout the Web or in other fan circles. Rest assured that the spellings contained in this book are the spellings that Mashima-sensei wanted for *Fairy Tail*.

#### Bento, page 34

The traditional boxed lunch of Japan usually features a main course on a bed of rice and includes pickled veggies, salad, cooked egg, and other foods along with sweet beans for dessert. Women are known for waking up early and fixing elaborate bento boxes. Single girls prepare them for themselves or their boyfriends, while mothers fix bento boxes for their children's school lunches.



#### Feminist, page 36

In America, the word "feminist" has taken on nuances of a radical activist for women's rights. In Japan, the connotations are much broader, spanning the range from activist to someone who simply likes women.



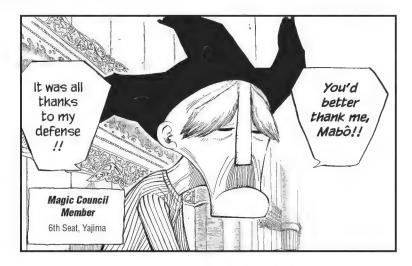
#### Passionate Fish, page 45

The title of the top book the librarian is holding was written in Japanese, *Jônetsu-gyo*, which means "Passionate Fish" or "Passion Fish." One might assume that, as translator, I would use the name of the movie, *Passion Fish*, for the translation, but it did not seem appropriate in this instance. When the movie came out, the Japanese title was not in Japanese, but instead used the English words in Japanese *katakana* characters, *Passhon Fisshu*. Since Mashima-sensei didn't use the proper name for the movie title, it seemed wrong for the translation to use the proper title of the movie either.



#### Mabô and Yanbô, page 66

There are many types of nicknames in Japanese, and this is one example. One takes the first syllable of the name and adds  $b\hat{o}$  to the end (or  $nb\hat{o}$  depending on phonics and the whim of the one assigning the nickname). This is generally a nickname used by men for male friends, and although it is still heard now and again, the popularity of that nickname declined decades ago. The use of the nicknames indicate that Master Makarov and Yajima are either old, very close friends, or former classmates.



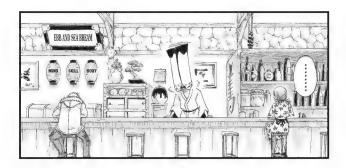
#### Ramen, chashu pork, page 66

The Chinese barbecue pork, *char siu*, is pronounced *chashu* in Japan, and the most common dish associated with *chashu* is ramen. One can order *chashu* Ramen as a menu item in most ramen restaurants/Chinese restaurants in Japan, or one can order extra *chashu* to be added to other ramen dishes such as Miso Ramen. *Chashu* consists of thin slices of pork (usually pork shoulder), and one usually only receives two or three slices per ramen dish.



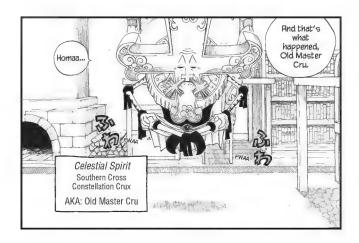
#### Ebb and Sea Bream, page 119

There is a phrase in Japanese, *isshin-ittai*, which means "ebb and flow." Of course it refers to the tides, but it also indicates the ups and downs of one's life. But in Japanese pun-loving fashion, here the normal *kanji* for *tai* has been replaced with a different *kanji*, also pronounced *tai*, but meaning "sea bream." Not the easiest pun to try to translate, but since English has few uses for the word "ebb" in any other context than "ebb and flow," juxtaposing "ebb and " with "sea bream" gives one the idea that someone is trying to make a joke—no matter how less-than-hilarious the pun was in this English translation.



#### Hmaa, page 133

This is simply one of those mumbling vocalizations that old men make in between sentences and phrases. I left the sound the same as in the Japanese.



#### Memphis Ring, page 150

The Memphis Ring is a magic item that can be found in the Japanese massively multi-player role-playing game (MMRPG), Strugarden Neo. The item is a finger ring with enough power to defeat a boss in the game.



#### Old Friend, page 178

In Japanese, the celestial spirit king used the term *furuki tomo*, which is a rather archaic way of saying "old friend." I was unable to find any other instances where this phrase was used in Japanese history or literature, so I can't claim to be an expert in the nuances of this phrase. Only that he used it as a way of saying "you" in the Japanese—even to Lucy who he had just met. The rest of his speech was rather archaic as well, and so the translation used "thees," "thous," and similar language to convey that concept.





Photo of the Mashima Group and Yoshikawa Group combined.

I've been hanging out with Miki Yoshikawa-sensei (I usually follow her name with "-chan" but...) for more than five years. She has been a good friend at times, and at other times a good rival. Although she started in manga after me, she's a well-respected member of my circle of friends. Since we're both so busy, we are only able to hang out together once or twice a year, but during the times we can get both of our groups together, it's really fun! On the day of this picture, we were playing video games from the morning on....What a great group of adults, huh? Ah ha ha ha!! They were really fun people!

-Hiro Mashima

## **Honorifics Explained**

Throughout the Kodansha Comics books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Kodansha not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Kodansha Comics.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

**-sama**: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

**-chan:** This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even between lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

**Bozu:** This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

### Sempai/

**Senpai**: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

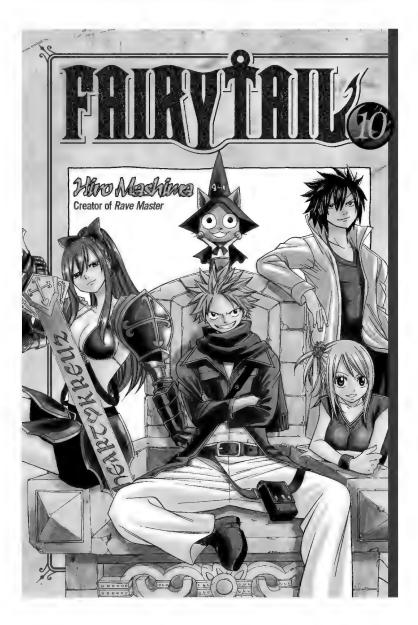
**Kohai:** This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

**Sensei:** Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

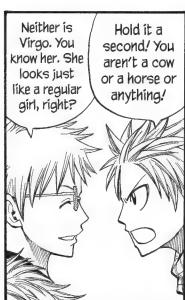
-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

## **Preview of Volume 10**

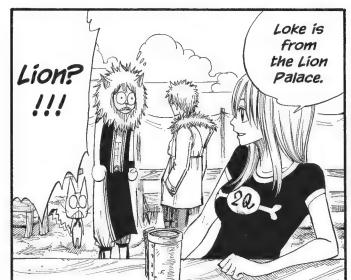
We're pleased to present you with a preview from volume 10, now available from Kodansha Comics. Check out our Web site (www.kodanshacomics.com) for more details!



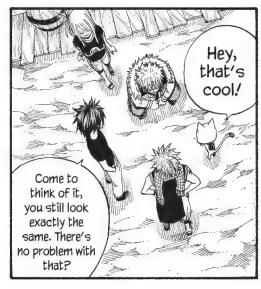






















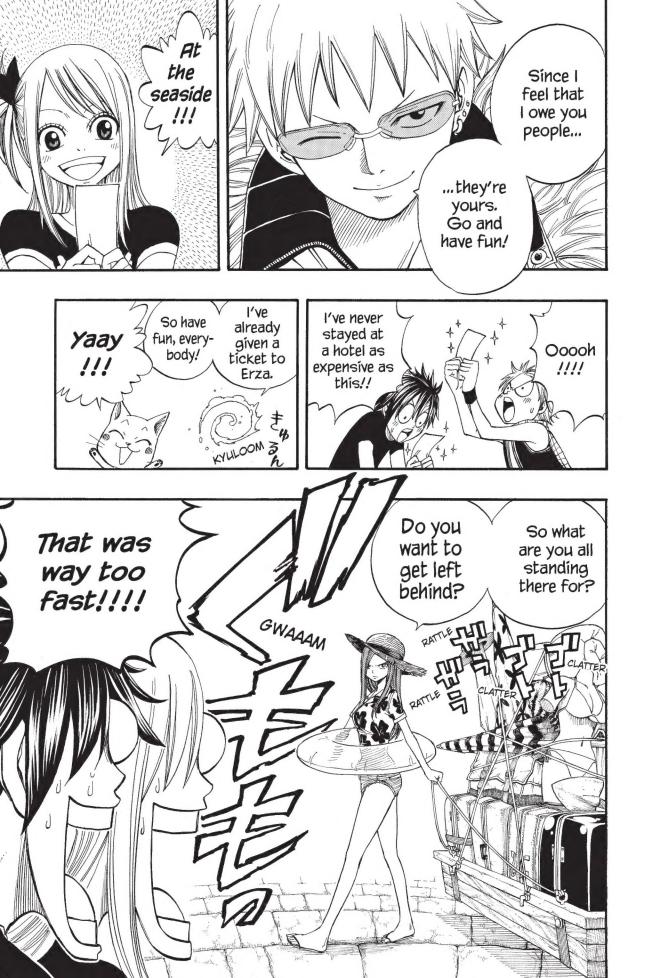


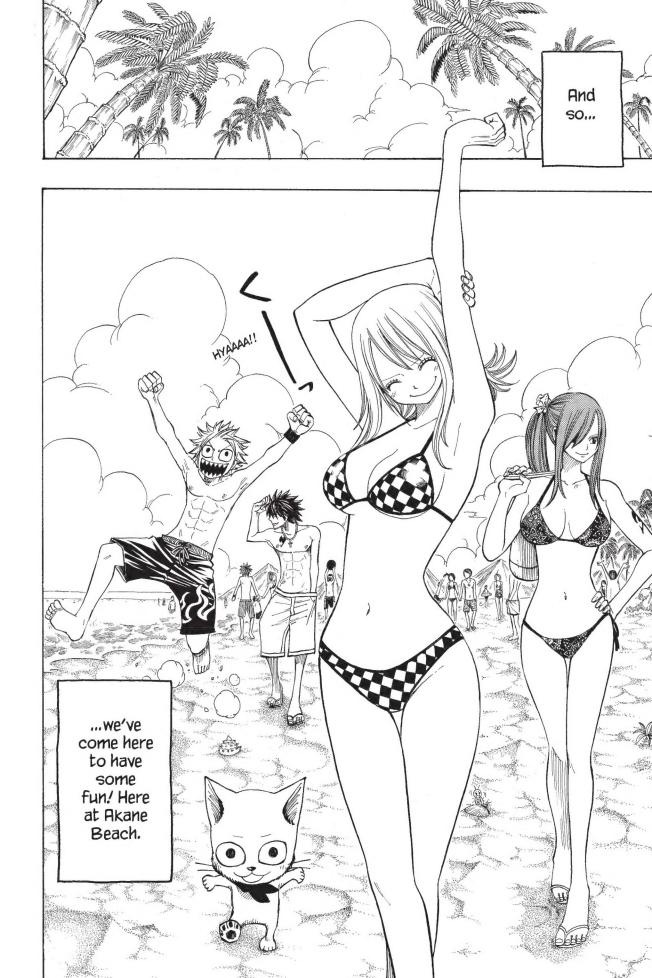












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